

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 10398 191827Z
ACTION EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 ONY-00 /004 W
-----118063 191829Z /43

P 191505Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0014

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10398

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. AS WE SAID IN PARA 4 OF OUR 10182 WE SEE NO POSSIBILITY FOR
A SEPARATE RELIGIOUS FACILITY IN THE NEW CHANCERY. WE AGREE WITH
YOU (PARA 3 OF STATE 163652 THAT THE ONLY OPTION (ASIDE FROM
CONTINUING THE STATUS QUO) IS THE LEASING OF A BUILDING.

2. AS YOU PROBABLY REMEMBER, THERE IS AN UNUSED CHURCH ON
BOL'SHOY DEVYATINSKIY, AROUND THE CORNER FROM THE EMBASSY. THE
OUTSIDE OF THIS CHURCH HAS JUST BEEN SOMEWHAT RESTORED. QUITE
ASIDE FROM THE LEGAL PROBLEMS, HOWEVER, WE SHOULD ASSUME THAT THE
SOVIETS MAY CHARGE US A GREAT SUM OF MONEY FOR RENOVATION AND RENT
OF THE CHURCH. THE ROOSEVELT/LITVNIOV AGREEMENTS CLEARLY HOLD OUT
THE POSSIBILITY OF EITHER RECEIVING FREE OF CHARGE OR OF LEASING
BUILDINGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES. WE NOTE, HOWEVER,
THAT THE DECREES ON WHICH LITVNIOV'S LETTER ARE BASED DATE FROM
1929, AND WE HAVE NO WAY OF TELLING FROM HERE WHETHER THESE
REMAIN VALID. IT SEEMS TO US THAT BEFORE WE GO TO THE SOVIETS
WITH A FORMAL REQUEST, L AND PERHAPS LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SHOULD
LOOK INTO WHETHER OR NOT THESE DECREES (NOW ALMOST FIFTY YEARS
OLD) STILL PROVIDE US A PEG ON WHICH TO MAKE A DEMARCHE.

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3. OUR GUESS IS THAT THE ASSURANCES PROVIDED IN THE ROOSEVELT/
LITVNIOV LETTERS PROVIDE A SUFFICIENT BASIS FOR ASKING THE
SOVIETS TO OFFER A FACILITY. WHEN AND IF ONE IS OFFERED, WE
WOULD HAVE TO INVESTIGATE HOW THE COSTS WOULD BE COVERED. IF,
AS IS LIKELY, THE COSTS EXCEED THE CAPACITY OF LOCAL CONGREGATIONS
TO PAY, THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE COVERED BY THE SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

OR--CONCEIVABLY--A CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION. AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, THERE SEEMS TO BE NO REASON TO CROSS THIS PARTICULAR BRIDGE, SINCE WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THE COSTS WOULD BE.

4. CAN YOU HAVE L EXAMINE THIS PROBLEM IN LIGHT OF ROOSEVELT/ LITVNIOV, OR SHOULD WE COME IN WITH A FORMAL REQUEST?

5. RE STATE 167449, PARA 3, TRANSIT VISA CASE OF SILANT'YEV: WE SENT THAT ONE TO VIENNA ACCIDENTALLY--BUT ARE HOLDING TO THE 21-DAY RULE BEFORE ISSUANCE. IN THIS INSTANCE, THE VISA REQUEST WAS MADE IN GOOD TIME, SINCE HIS ETD IS JULY 24. THANKS FOR BRINGING THE CASE TO OUR ATTENTION.

6. WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED A REPLY TO OUR 9866 (OF 8 JULY) REPORTING THE SOVIET SUGGESTION FOR A MILITARY INSTITUTE DELEGATION TO VISIT THE US SEPTEMBER 6-13 AND FOR AN EXCHANGE OF MILITARY QUEST LECTURERS LATER IN SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER. WE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND SOON ON THIS ONE, IF POSSIBLE. CAN YOU GIVE US A STATUS REPORT?

7. CIVIL DEFENSE AIRGRAM WAS POUCHED JULY 2 AS MOSCOW A-179 (INVOICE NUMBER C-60, RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON JULY 5, C&R REGISTRY NUMBER 012) AND SHOULD HAVE REACHED YOU BY NOW. SINCE IT IS SHORT WE PROPOSE TO CABLE ENTIRE THREE-PAGE TEXT TO YOU IF YOU CANNOT GET HOLD OF IT USING ABOVE INFO. IF WE HAVE TO CABLE IT, WE WILL SLUG IT FOR YOU AND INR.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW10398
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770272-1085
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770743/aaaabkvo.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0f679a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1819306
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL
TAGS: OGEN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0f679a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009